

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

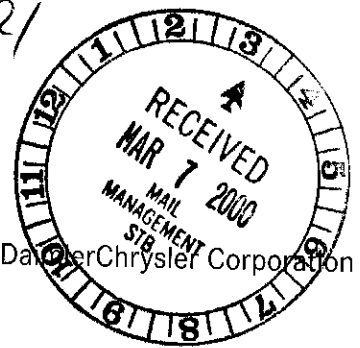
March 6, 2000

The Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
U.S. Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Case Control Unit - Ex Parte 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20413-0001

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Office of the Secretary

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Re: Finance Docket No. 33842 - BNSF/CN Notice to file for application to merger

DaimlerChrysler is a large user of rail transportation for both automotive parts and finished vehicles. DaimlerChrysler supports the STB's decision in the BNSF/CN docket to examine carefully the BNSF/CN merger application and all of its associated effects on the rail transportation industry.

It is the opinion of DaimlerChrysler that the rail transportation industry has yet to fully settle from the most recent round of merger activity which began with Burlington Northern's purchase of the Sante Fe and that the benefits of these activities have yet to be fully realized by all participants. Given this current state of the rail transportation industry DaimlerChrysler feels the proposed merger of the BNSF/CN is premature and therefore presents a high risk to the industry as well as to DaimlerChrysler.

Should this proposed merger, or any subsequent mergers, be approved DaimlerChrysler requests the following considerations:

1. Open access by multiple rail service providers to all DaimlerChrysler manufacturing facilities.
2. Significant upgrades and complete access to the rail tunnel between Windsor, Ontario and Detroit, Michigan to allow for high volume and high capacity railcar conveyances (i.e. 20' 2" high multi-level rail cars)
3. Require the railroads to pursue initiatives to A) improve interchange service, B) coordinate operations in complex terminal areas and C) more effectively use information technology to service DaimlerChrysler

E. T. Sprock
Director - DaimlerChrysler Logistics

c.c. D. P. Hodgson, Vice President - Supply
W. L. Lamott, Senior Manager - DaimlerChrysler Transport
R. L. Liberatore, Vice President - Washington Affairs
L. J. Morgan, Board Chairman - STB

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